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Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour
*... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service*

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

July Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Great Lakes Basin 81%

Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair) 76%

Lake Superior 87%

Lakes 78%

# LEVEL news

**Volume 10, Number 8** **August 9, 2002**

**Two Public Events Scheduled for September**

## Seasonal Rise Likely to Continue on Lake Superior during August

Monthly mean water levels on lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron increased slightly from June to July. Trends in daily water levels, however, suggest that Lakes Michigan-Huron have peaked for the year, whereas Lake Superior will continue its seasonal rise during August.

Lake Superior will likely see a small increase in water levels during August. Monthly levels usually peak in September on Lake Superior. Daily levels were fairly stable on Lakes Michigan-Huron during July. Levels on these lakes will likely decline a few centimetres during August as they begin their seasonal decline. Having peaked during June, water levels on lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario are expected to continue to decline during August.

At the beginning of August, lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron were 15 and 27 cm below average, respectively. Lakes St. Clair and Erie began the month 8 and 6 cm below average, whereas Lake Ontario level was 13 cm above average. Present levels on each of the Great Lakes, except Lake Superior, remain 18 to 30 cm higher than those of one year ago. Lake Superior is at about the same level as it was last year.

Montreal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 6.55 m during July; just 3 cm higher than its 1967-2001 period-of-record average level for the month, but 115 cm higher than it was during July 2001.

## Study Board and Public Interest Advisory Group Release Year 1 Reports to the International Joint Commission

The International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Study Board and the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG) will release two comprehensive Year 1 progress reports to the International Joint Commission (IJC) on August 14, 2002. The Study Board Year 1 report summarizes activities completed in the first year of a 5-year, bi-national water level study of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The PIAG Year 1 report was developed to ensure that the public's impressions, opinions and feedback were accurately captured from the very beginning of the Study.

Michigan-Huron

Lake Ontario 81%

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

July Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Lake Superior 97%

Lake Erie 95%

Lake Huron 91%

Lake Ontario 110%

**Note**: These figures are preliminary.

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The Study Team emphasizes that there is a great deal of work ahead to complete the 5-year, IJC project and that public participation is critical to the evaluation and assessment of current water level regulation in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. To ensure that the study reflects the interests of the public, the PIAG will continue to schedule frequent public meetings in various locations in the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River area. Upcoming meetings will be held in Ogdensburg, New York, Belleville, Ontario and Trois-Rivieres, Quebec.

More information, including the full text of the reports, may be found on the Study's website, or by contacting Amanda Morelli in Canada at (613) 992-5727 or Arleen Kreusch in the U.S. at (716) 879-4438.

## Asian Carp Threaten Great Lakes Warns IJC

In a letter to the governments of the United States and Canada the International Joint Commission (IJC) states that immediate action must be taken by the two governments to prevent Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes in the near future. Scientists caution that failure to prevent the invasion of Asian carp may result in damage to the Great Lakes ecosystem far exceeding those brought about by the previous invasions of the sea lamprey and the zebra mussel.

For more information about this issue, including a copy of the IJC's letter, please visit the IJC website.

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

## Public Meeting

On September 19, 2002 in Ogdensburg, New York, the International Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Study Board and the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control will be hosting a joint public meeting at the Quality Inn Gran –View from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact Amanda Morelli in Canada at (613) 992-5727 or Arleen Kreusch in the U.S. at (716) 879-4438 to RSVP.

## Open House

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an open house during the evening of Monday, September 16, 2002 at the Four Points/Sheraton Hotel, 114 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York. The purpose of this open house is to inform the public of the Board's current activities and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on Great Lakes water levels. The open house is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. If you require additional information, please contact Len Falkiner at: (905) 336-4947.

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